

CLAIMS

1. A carrier for at least one shaped charge, the carrier being disposable in use within a well bore, the carrier comprising a housing at least partially formed from a composite material, the composite material being non-frangible in normal use and the composite material being arranged substantially to contain debris created within the carrier as a result of firing of the at least one shaped charge.
2. A carrier according to any preceding claim in which the housing comprises an inner housing which is at least partially encompassed by an outer composite material overwrap.
3. A carrier according to claim 2 in which the inner housing is substantially of metal.
4. A carrier according to claim 1 in which the housing is a composite material housing.
5. A carrier according to any preceding claim, wherein the housing comprises a thin-walled cylinder.
6. A carrier according to any preceding claim, in which the housing comprises a thin-walled metal cylinder.
7. A carrier according to any preceding claim in which the carrier has at least one port formed therein.
8. A carrier according to any preceding claim, in which a plurality of ports are distributed along the longitudinal extent of the carrier.
9. A carrier according to any preceding claim, in which the composite material is a loaded polymer matrix.
10. A carrier according to any preceding claim, in which the composite material includes longitudinally arranged fibres.

11. A carrier according to any preceding claim, in which the composite material includes circumferentially arranged fibres.
- 5 12. A carrier according to claim 10, in which said circumferentially arranged fibres have respective predetermined tensions.
13. A perforating gun comprising a carrier according to any preceding claim.
- 10 14. A method of improving fluid outflow from a well borehole the method comprising the steps of:

providing a perforating gun (or carrier for a perforating gun) according to claim 13;

positioning the perforating gun in the well borehole;
15

perforating the borehole by firing the perforating gun;

retrieving debris resulting from the step of perforating by recovering the carrier of the perforating gun, the carrier containing debris resulting from the firing.
20
15. A method according to claim 14 in which the fluid is one or more of hydrocarbons, water, and steam.